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EDITORIAL

THE POINT THAT WALKER MISSES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

JOHN Brisben Walker is pronouncedly anti-Russian. The triumph of the Czar in the Far East is to him, the triumph of despotism and the annihilation of the commerce of western Europe and America. The latter especially arouses his solicitude, for it implies the defeat of western civilization. Walker is not only pronouncedly anti-Russian, but he is also anti-Socialist. Were this not so, he would not indulge in such emendations as the following from his pen, in *The Conquest of Asia by Russia*:

“While France has agreed to aid Russia in the event of another power coming to the assistance of Japan, it is inconceivable that a republic should be so short-sighted as to support a policy that is diametrically opposed to everything which France holds dear. Already there has been pronounced expressions in Paris against giving support to Russia. When the time comes, it is probable that a French sentiment which has not been consulted in the making of this treaty, because it was an affair of diplomatic rather than an affair of peoples, will be discovered in the ascendant.”

The man who is not anti-Socialist would not be carried away by political and idealistic considerations. While giving them all the merit due, he would investigate the economic conditions which makes republican France’s support of despotic Russia imperative, and express himself accordingly

A financial authority recently published the following momentous facts:

“The official list of the Paris Bourse contains the names of fourteen separate Russian bond issues, and of ten Russian railroad loans with Government guarantee. A recent careful Paris estimate reckons the face value of these French holdings at \$1,400,000,000 to \$1,600,000,000. The London estimate is \$1,750,000,000.”

The loss of this stupendous sum, together with the many valuable perquisites

growing out of its loan, would involve the capitalist, the dominating, class of France in financial ruin, an alternative that it, as a modern industrial nation, cannot afford. Thus the interests of the capitalist class of France force an international alliance that is in contradiction to French political and revolutionary ideals.

“Economic phenomena form the foundation and the determining conditions of all human or social manifestations,” says Enrico Ferri.

This is the point that Walker misses and the Socialist sees.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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